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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/329,606	06/10/1999	ANDREW F. ROBERTS	10012.911	8318

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EXAMINER

PRIETO, BEATRIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/329,606

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS ET AL.

Examiner

B. Prieto

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

Detailed Action

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 12/27/02, claims 1-20 remain pending and are here by set forth for examination.
2. Quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action may be found in previous office action.
3. Claims 1-5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et. al. (Schneck) U.S. Patent No. 6,260,039 in further view of Perkowski U.S. Patent No. 5,918,214.

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Schneck teaches substantial features of the invention as claimed. Schneck teaches a system/method comprising:

storing identifiers of a plurality of network services (col 4/lines 23-33, 43-63, col 3/lines 37-38) in a (104) directory (col 3/lines 37-38);

an computer (102) (engine, i.e. processor) receiving request (col 3/lines 54-56, col 4/lines 48-52, 53-56) to access said plurality of network services;

a plurality of drivers means for handling request and responses to/from said plurality of network services (i.e. drivers for interfacing with said plurality of network services) (col 3/lines 28-33, col 4/lines 10-14, interfacing with network services, col 4/line 10-14) and with said engine via a plurality of drivers based on said requests (col 4/lines 23-3, 42-65 request data);

said network services comprising a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing network services identified (e.g. names) in said directory (col 5/lines 33-67, service entities using directory entries, col 5/lines 62-67);

however Schneck teachings of a directory of identifiers to a plurality of network services, does not explicitly teach using said identifiers to access said network services;

Perkowski teaches a plurality of directories (IPSD (3) of Fig. 1) (col 6/lines 27-33) containing a plurality of identifiers to a plurality of network services (col 3/lines 22-41, identifiers, col 8/lines 46-col 9/line 35); and using said identifiers to direct request to access said network services when requested (requests col 3/lines 52-60, Fig. 3B, col 5/lines 28-31, access using said identifiers, Fig. 4B, upon request Fig. 4A, receiving request, col 7/lines 5-6, 10-12, directory including identifiers to a plurality of network services and including metadata, col 8/lines 46-col 9/line 35);

*Update
future action
w/ response
to this*

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement to claimed directory, using a database for storing a plurality of network services information, to implement claimed engine, using a computer processor for receiving request for accessing a plurality of network services including any resource accessible of a client/server (request-response) architecture, to implement claim drivers, using an processor and executable instructions for processing the request and responses between said network services and said engine and provide access to said network services. These elements providing the same functionality as claimed elements, motivation would be to enable the access to a wide variety of network services resources comprising multi-sourced content and further customize build responses, as suggested by Schneck. Further to utilize Perkowski's teaching to use identifiers obtained from different directories to access said network services upon request or automatically, as taught by Perkowski, motivation would be use standard-base directory interface to unify disparate directories, as suggested by Schneck.

Regarding claims 2-3, the above teachings further teach wherein said directory includes metadata descriptive information, i.e. metadata (Schneck: col 3/lines 57-60) for each of said plurality of network services in said directory (Schneck: col 5/lines 36-37, 41-49); wherein said metadata defines a schema comprises input/output data (e.g. data format (html) or HTTP parameters) (Schneck: col 4/lines 23-33, 42-65).

Regarding claims 4-5, the above teachings further teach wherein said metadata further includes definition, invocation or commands data, i.e. configuration parameters for defining, invoking, or commanding, i.e. configuring a specific driver (Schneck: col 5/lines 26-32, object class) associated with said service (Schneck: col 5/lines 1-11, col 6/lines 1-6); and wherein said network services are accessible via an API (Schneck: col 4/lines 10-14).

4. Claims 6-10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et. al. (Schneck) U.S. Patent No. 6,260,039 in view of Call U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738.

Regarding claim 6, the above teachings however do not explicitly teach wherein said network services are XML-based network services;

Call teaches a directory of a plurality of network services means for receiving request

to access said network services and means for providing said network services using data in said directory identifying network services, wherein said network services are XML-based network services (col 9/lines 66-col 23/line 49).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include XML based network services, motivation would be enabling enhance the rendered network services wherein the selection and rendering of the product information network services is controlled by the links specified by service provider providing dynamic data controlled by the style specification which may have different visual styles, as suggested by Call.

Regarding claims 7-8, service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response (Schneck: col 4/lines 15-21); wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed to fulfill request, directs requests to the appropriate network services via said service drivers (Schneck: col 7/lines 8-14, col 5/lines 62-67), and builds responses into replies (Schneck: col 7/lines 18-32, col 6/lines 1-6).

Regarding claims 9-10 the above teachings further teach wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests (Schneck: col 4/lines 23-33); wherein access to said system is accomplished via a web (108) browser (Schneck: col 3/lines 24-41).

Regarding claims 12-20, these claims comprise the method associated with the system disclosed on claims 2-10, respectively same rationale is applicable.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant argues (a) prior art does not teach claim limitation as recited, specifically, a directory of identifiers to a plurality of network services, because according to applicant (i) the prior art's directory contain no identifiers and the services in the prior are not network services but rather "physical services, such as delivered and performed by humans" and not performed by computers.

In response to argument a, according to applicant's specification: a service may be any system that can response to request or queries (see page 11, lines 17-20); a web service is represented by a URL, traditional URL's can be considered to be web services^v (see page 12, lines 20-23); any entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing some response, is potentially a web service (see page 13, lines 3-10);^v an URL is an identifier that represents a web service (see page 14, lines 10-15); a

system looks up the service ID in the web services directory using a set of web services that communicate via LDAP to the web services directory (see page 14, lines 22-page 15, line 3); The service ID is identified in the request URL using directory based parameters that identify the common name (cn), organization unit (uo), organization (o) and country (c); distinguish names (DN) may be replaced by Unique Names (see page 15, lines 4-14).

Prior art teaches storing identifiers of a plurality of network services (request including identifiers e.g. URL that specify a resource, col 4/lines 23-33, that responds to request, col 3/lines 53-57; where request is used to access a directory for correlating abbreviated names to non-abbreviated names, col 2/lines 10-19, request include identifiers such as distinguish names (DN) col 4/lines 43-63, network services provide information about products and resources: col 3/lines 37-38 on internal and public network including the Internet) in a (104) directory; a resource may be an image or static document, col 4/lines 48-52, or HTML files and image files, col 7/lines 13-17, URL may be in the form of Distinguish name (DN), col 4/lines 47-57, mapping consist in correlating identifiers of network services of more easily understandable identifiers using Common name (CN) identifiers, col 6/lines 54-65, Fig. 9B illustrates a request to a sales corporation.

Arguments the prior art's directory contain no identifiers and the services in the prior are not network services but rather "physical services, such as delivered and performed by humans" and not performed by computers, are not consistent with prior art's teaching nor they are consistent with applicant's disclosure. Applicant's arguments are contrary to disclosed invention and are not persuasive.

6. Applicant argues (b) prior art does not teach network services, because Perkowski is directed to an entirely different field of endeavor and cannot be read to include the type of network services described in the claimed invention.

In response to argument (b), Perkowski teaches a plurality of directories (IPSD (3) of Fig. 1) (abstract, URL identifies that point to services related to information, col 6/lines 27-33, Figs. 1-2 illustrate network (web) services accessed via URLs) containing a plurality of identifiers to a plurality of network services (col 3/lines 22-41, identifiers, col 8/lines 46-col 9/line 35); and using said identifiers to direct request to access said network services when requested (requests col 3/lines 52-60, Fig. 3B, col 5/lines 28-31, access using said identifiers, Fig. 4B, upon request Fig. 4A, receiving request, col 7/lines 5-6, 10-12, directory including identifiers to a plurality of network services and including metadata, col 8/lines 46-col 9/line 35).

7. Applicant arguments filed 12/27/02 have been fully considered but not rendered persuasive. Rejection is maintained.

8. For the purposes of accelerating the prosecution of instant application, specifically, for overcoming the prior art of record (Schneck and Perkowski), it is noted that the following feature in applicant's specification is not taught by said prior art of record based on a cursory review. Specifically, the disclosure of a login page requesting authentication information, where the login page is an XML packet (see page 15, line 21-page 16, line 2).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prieto, B. whose telephone number is (703) 305-0750. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 to 3:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mark R. Powell can be reached on (703) 305-9703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-6606. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800/4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
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or Faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, for Official communications and entry


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Or Telephone:

(703) 306-5631 for TC 2100 Customer Service Office.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist), further ensuring that a receipt is provided stamped "TC 2100".


B. Prieto
TC 2100
Patent Examiner
February 28, 2003


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